

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
1685 E Street, Fresno, California 93706

PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER
REQUIRING
EXXONMOBIL PRODUCTION COMPANY
HILL LEASE, SOUTH BELRIDGE OIL FIELD
KERN COUNTY**

**TO CEASE AND DESIST
FROM DISCHARGING CONTRARY TO REQUIREMENTS**

ExxonMobil Production Company (ExxonMobil) discharges non-hazardous oil field produced water and filter backwash water to four surface impoundments at the Hill Lease, South Belridge Oil Field, Kern County. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R5-2004-0080, among other things, contains a time schedule requiring ExxonMobil to cease discharging by 30 June 2006.

ExxonMobil has stated that additional time is needed to meet the cease discharge date because of changes to the engineering technology and, the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricane impacts on personnel resources and equipment manufacturing. The Cease and Desist Order contains a new compliance date to cease the discharge. The Cease and Desist Order is being proposed because ExxonMobil will be in violation of the WDRs for failure to comply with the cease discharge date of 30 June 2006.

A public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Central Valley Water Board (Regional Board) meeting scheduled for:

DATE: Thursday, 22 June 2006 and Friday, 23 June 2006
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Central Valley Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Dr, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA

The designated parties for this hearing are as follows:

- Staff of Central Valley Regional Board
- ExxonMobil Production Company

Only designated parties will have these rights: to call and examine witnesses; to introduce exhibits; to cross-examine opposing witnesses; to impeach any witness; and to rebut the evidence against him or her. All other persons wishing to testify or provide comments are interested persons and not designated parties. Such interested persons may request status as a designated party for purposes of this hearing by submitting such request in writing to the Regional Board no later than **14 June 2006**. The request

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EXXONMOBIL PRODUCTION COMPANY
HILL LEASE, SOUTH BELRIDGE OIL FIELD
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must explain the basis for status as a designated party and in particular how the person is directly affected by the discharge.

Persons wishing to comment on this noticed hearing item must submit testimony, evidence, if any, and/or comments in writing to the Regional Board no later than **8 June 2006**. Written evidence or comments submitted after **8 June 2006** will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice any party.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Regional Board meeting, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony and cross examination will be limited in time by the Regional Board Chair.

Anyone having questions on the cease and desist order should contact **Mr. Douglas Wachtell at (559) 445-5114 or at dwachtell@waterboards.ca.gov**. Interested parties may download the proposed Order from the Regional Board's Internet website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/tentative/>. A copy of the proposed Order can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Regional Board's office at 1685 E St., Fresno, California 93706, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The procedures governing Regional Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Regional Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. The procedures may be obtained by accessing http://waterboards.ca.gov/water_laws. Information on meeting and hearing procedures is also available on the Regional Board's website at http://waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_meetings/mtgprocd.html or by contacting any one of the Regional Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Janice Tanaka at (916) 464-4839.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Janice Tanaka at (916) 464-4839 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

Loren J. Harlow, Assistant Executive Officer

26 May 2006